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Zathorax, *Physopyxis*, *Otocinclus* and *Pariolius*. A genus (*Characidium*) previously only known by one small species from a Brazilian coast stream, has its range greatly extended by the discovery of a species in the Ambyiacu.

G E O L O G Y.

AURORA ISLAND.—With reference to the alleged disappearance of Aurora Island, one of the New Hebrides group, to which we alluded some weeks since on the authority of a paper read before the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, a correspondent of the "Shipping and Mercantile Gazette" affirms that the whole story is a fable. The original statement rested on a notice by Captain Plock, of the French ship *Adolphe*, bound from Iquique to London, that he passed over the position of the Iles de l'Aurore, as marked on his French chart of the South Atlantic, and saw nothing of them, from which he concluded that they had disappeared. It appears, however, that the Iles de l'Aurore (Aurora Islands) never existed. They were formerly placed between lat. $52^{\circ} 38'$ and $53^{\circ} 15'$ S., and between long. $47^{\circ} 43'$ and $47^{\circ} 57'$ W., of Greenwich. The first reporters of the islands probably saw icebergs in the given locality, and mistook their character. Aurora Island, in the New Hebrides group, has been confounded with the Aurora Island in the Paumotu, Tuamotu, or Low Archipelago. Aurora, Makatea, or Metia Island, lat. $15^{\circ} 50'$ S., long. $148^{\circ} 13'$ W., one of the Low Archipelago, has not been visited for some time, but its elevation would lead to the inference that it could not disappear suddenly; it is fertile and inhabited. This is the island visited by Wilkes, and on which the unique specimens of mollusca were found. It is upwards of 2,500 miles eastward of the New Hebrides.—*Nature*.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

SUPPOSED MEXICAN IDOL.—We have received from Dr. C. U. Shepard, jr., a stereoscopic view of an idol made of Mexican lava, presented to him by a Mr. Toomer of Charleston, S. C. The image is about three and a half inches high, and is at present deposited in the collection of Prof. Shepard, sr., at Amherst College, Mass. The image was said to have been found a few inches